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**Claims**

1-12 Canceled

13. (New) A method for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the method comprising:
- controlling the load elements by a common control unit with a common system clock in phase staggered manner;
- predetermining, for each load element, an initial value and a final value, wherein the initial values of the load elements diverge from each other and the final values of the load elements are determined according to the pulse-break ratio; and
- supplying each load element with current for a period of time between the respective initial and final value.
14. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the load elements are resistive load elements in an electrically independent load circuit and are supplied from a common supply line.
15. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein a common system clock in a common counter is counted up to a predetermined counter final value.
16. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein for different operating situations different phase shifts of the individual load elements with respect each other are predetermined.
17. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the following parameters is determined:

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a number of load elements to be currently controlled; or

a pulse width of the load elements to be currently controlled; or

an electrical power input or size proportional thereto of the load elements to be currently controlled with respect to each other; or

a harmonic content in a common supply line timed over the control of all load elements.

18. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein illuminants, such as lamps or LEDs, in a motor vehicle, are controlled.

19. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein a measurement arrangement is provided in the common supply line for detecting the harmonic content.

20. (New) A control circuit for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the circuit comprising:

a common system clock; and

a storage region for each load element, wherein a pulse width and a phase position of the respective load element are stored..

21. (New) A control circuit according to claim 20 further comprising:

an initial value and final value for the phase staggered pulse width modulated control are stored;

a common counter, which counts the system clock up to a predetermined counter final value;

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for each load element storage region an initial value and a final value are stored for the phase staggered pulse width modulated control; and

for each load element a comparator and a switch, which compares the counter state with the initial and final value and dependent therefrom controls the switch in the electric circuit to the load element.

22. (New) A control circuit according to claim 21, wherein a reset-input is provided at the counter, by which for all load elements the control can be jointly synchronized by resetting and restarting the counter.

23. (New) A control circuit according to claim 20, wherein the storage region stores different operating situations and different phase positions of the individual load elements with respect to each other; and

a device for recognizing the current operating situation and selection of the phase position assigned to the current operating situation is provided.

24. (New) A control circuit according to claim 23, wherein a plurality of different phase positions of the individual load elements with respect to each other can be programmed via an interface and stored in the storage regions.